11/20/74

Dear Harold,

WW IV arrived today. Thank you so much for the book and the kind inscription. I wish you the best of luck with it, and I shall contact bookstores here and have my parents do the same in Phila. I don't know what affect the book can have on future efforts to ammend the FOIA, but I still see potential in blocking part of the Hald/Ehrl defense, for the papers (even down here) seem to be playing up the fact that the former aides will rely heavily on the corruption of the CIA, and the transcript can be used, among other things, to impeach all CIA testimony.

I'm really sorry I haven't written for so long. At first I put off writing because I figured you were busy with the Ray hearing, and when that ended I was so consumed with work that it seemed impossible to find the time to sit down and write a coherent letter.

Things have been going well. I am a little more homesick than I expected to be, but I have been having a good time here, both educationally and socially. I am learning so much that it is difficult to take it all in! In class the learning is intense; we are expected to absorb a great deal in a short time, and to always be on our toes. So far I have been successful (I think), and am on personal terms with 2 out of 3 of my profs. One, in fact, approached me on his own initiative to ask if I had any prior legal experience, for he was so impressed with my classroom work. But that is about all the feedback I've gotten, so it is really impossible to speculate as to how I'll do on finals.

I'm also learning a hell of a lot out of class. A close friend of mine has his fingers in just about every pie at the law school, so to speak, and I get a lot of the local poop from him. What I've learned has both opened my eyes and disillusioned me. My friend is a prosecutor on the honor court at school, and thus I have learned of the degree of corruption of the student government and the board of regents--a very pervasive and serious corruption about which little can be done. Furthermore, I am beginning to learn about the repressive tenacles of the Fla. Bar. They have a reputation as one of the worst in the country, and investigate each applicant in an unimaginably thorough manner. In order to apply to the bar, each applicant must sign a release for every file anywhere on him, as well as a general release from liability for anything anyone tells the Bar about him. This is abominable and is being faught, but in the meantime no applicant will be accepted unless the form is signed (my application is due in a month). You will be contacted by them in due course.

Fairleigh Dickinson accepted my Cold War book, and after much thought and some negotiation I decided to let them do it. The contract frees me from further obligations and gives me more leeway in returning proofs, etc. The final contract is yet to be signed, though. Also, they told me in Sept they hoped to get Pres. Glty out by end of year and I've since heard nothing from them on that, no new proofs, nothing. My decision to let F-D do the new book was influenced by several factors; I didn't want to spend the time looking for another publisher, I felt my chances for a regular commercial house were not good because the book is very heavy, scholarly and not really capable of appealing to any kind of mass market, and I just came down on the conservative side once I had someone willing to publish the book requiring a minimum of work on my part for revisions or corrections.

I might be going home for about a week before Christmas, if I can find a baby sitter for my plants (shouldn't be too hard). Before making my final decisions I want to find out if my Phila friends plan to be in Phila then, otherwise I would not fly up, and just arrange to see my family down here. At first I thought flying up was out of the question, because of cost. My parents and sister were to drive down, and go to Miami. But because of my sister's schedule, even if my folks drive down, she will have to fly down. So, if it is practical, I might as well just fly up there. If I do come up I doubt if I will have time to come visit you and Lil, though I'd like to. I'll call for sure.

Soon I'll be learning how to drive, a must down here. I finally have to desire to learn, and hope to have my own car in short order. So, perhaps by next summer I'll be able to drive up, and it will be a lot easier for me to come visit.

So much has happened, but it seems impossible to capsulize it in a letter. I hope I get the opportunity to talk to you soon. I hope everything is well with you and Lil, and that the reason for your silence, like mine, is simply that you have been preoccupied with work.

My best wishes to both of you,

Howard